

Masatoshi KANAYA et al.

Docket No. 020287

shellfish on the basis of information on the intensity of the fluorescent light generated from said stripped shellfish, and removing said stripped shellfish if there is any residual shell.

2. (Amended) A method of detecting and removing a stripped shellfish carrying therewith unstripped residual shell, which is characterized by the steps of: irradiating a light of specific wave-range onto said stripped shellfish after finishing a shell-stripping work thereof to generate fluorescent light from said stripped shellfish, taking an image of said stripped shellfish with a CCD camera, and determining if there is residual shell left on the stripped shellfish on the basis of information to be derived from the image taken up of shellfish on the intensity of the fluorescent light generated from said stripped shellfish, and removing said stripped shellfish if there is any residual shell.

5. (Amended) An apparatus for detecting and removing a stripped shellfish carrying there with unstripped residual shell, said apparatus comprising; means for irradiating a light of specific wave-range onto said stripped shellfish after finishing a shell-stripping work thereof, thereby enabling fluorescent light to be generated from said stripped shellfish; detection means for detecting the fluorescent light generated from said stripped shellfish; means for determining if there is residual shell of the shellfish left on said stripped shellfish on the basis of information on the intensity of fluorescent light obtained from said detection means; and means for removing said stripped shellfish if there is any residual shell on the basis of information obtained from said determining means.

Masatoshi KANAYA et al.

Docket No. 020287

6. (Amended) An apparatus for detecting and removing a stripped shellfish carrying therewith unstripped residual shell, said apparatus comprising; means for irradiating a light of specific wave-range onto said stripped shellfish after finishing a shell-stripping work thereof, thereby enabling fluorescent light to be generated from said stripped shellfish; a CCD camera disposed to face said stripped shellfish; means for determining if there is residual shell left on said stripped shellfish on the basis of information on the intensity of fluorescent light that can be obtained from the image taken up by said CCD camera; and means for removing said stripped shellfish if there is any residual shell on the basis of information obtained from said determining means.